CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for producing primate embryoid bodies from colonies of primate embryonic stem cells that are adhering to a substrate, the method comprising:

removing the adhering colonies of the embryonic stem cells from the substrate in clumps; and

then incubating the clumps in a container under conditions in which the clumps are essentially inhibited from attaching to the container and coalesce into embryoid bodies.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step is conducted in the presence of an enzyme that promotes disassociation of the clumps as clumps from the substrate.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the enzyme is dispase.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step is conducted in the presence of a chelating agent.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step comprises mechanically scraping the clumps from the substrate.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the removal step is conducted in the presence of trypsin, calcium and magnesium.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the incubation step comprises agitating the container.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the incubation step is conducted in a container made of plastic.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the incubation step is conducted in the presence of a serum-free medium.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the primate embryonic stem cells are human embryonic stem cells and the primate embryoid bodies are human embryoid bodies.

11. A primate embryoid body derived from the method of claim 1.

12. The primate embryoid body of claim 11, wherein the embryoid body is a human embryoid body.

13. A differentiated primate cell derived from the embryoid body of claim 11.

14. The differentiated primate cell of claim 13, wherein the cell is a human cell.

15. The differentiated primate cell of claim 14, wherein the cell is a human neural cell.